



**Cybersecurity Advisory Committee**  
**Monday, June 15, 2015 1:00 p.m.**  
**3 East, General Assembly Building**

Members: Delegate Glenn Davis (chair), Delegate Kathy Byron, Delegate Dave LaRock, Delegate Tom Rust, Senator Steve Martin, Senator John Miller, Senator Jennifer Wexton

Delegate Glenn Davis, chair of the Cybersecurity Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order. A quorum of members was present,<sup>1</sup> along with many other interested parties from the private sector, universities, and government. Delegate Davis said that he was looking forward to a productive year with the Advisory Committee, and hoped that the committee's work would focus on collaboration, and making Virginia the nation's "cyber alley."

Staff provided a brief overview of the purpose of the Advisory Committee, and other relevant background. The Advisory Committee was formed at the request of private sector cybersecurity entities. The purpose of the committee is to explore the possibility of creating a public-private partnership to promote collaborative translational cybersecurity research and development between existing companies and the higher education community in the Commonwealth. Staff noted that the world of cybersecurity was very broad and encompassing, that defining cybersecurity for purposes of a partnership might become necessary. Staff also noted other concurrent cybersecurity efforts in Virginia, such as the Governor's Cybersecurity Commission and the Mach37 Cybersecurity Business Accelerator. Staff noted that there a few existing models for collaborative research that might be examined.

The bulk of the meeting was devoted to a round table-like discussion between the members of the Advisory Committee and interested parties in attendance. Delegate Tom Rust, the chair of JCOTS, noted that the idea for this committee was brought to him earlier this year. He hopes that the discussions can lead to the creation of a mechanism for collaborative research in the Code that would be jointly funded by the Commonwealth and industry. Delegate LaRock said that he thought it was important to have a strategic plan for cybersecurity in going forward, to ensure a well thought out effort that will yield economic benefits.

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<sup>1</sup> Members present: Delegate Davis, Delegate Byron, Delegate LaRock, Delegate Rust, Senator Miller, and Senator Wexton.

A private sector attendee noted that collaboration with universities could be difficult, and asked how that problem could be tackled. It was noted later that a key issue was finding topics of interest for collaboration, that would have economic benefits and was not just research for the sake of doing research. Collaboration with universities is generally opportunistic, based on a personal relationship between professors -- a very "bottoms up" approach. A top down approach, on the other hand, would look more like the work done at the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing.

Another industry participant noted that it would be helpful for industry to know what research already exists across the university system. The Secretary of Technology noted that there have been attempts to centralize the Commonwealth's expertise, but a large problem is keeping the information current and is a very labor-intensive process. She noted that the Center for Innovative Technology also used to play a larger role in this when it had regional offices, but budget cuts over the years eroded this function.

Delegate LaRock asked about the incentive for universities to work together? University representatives responded that senior leadership generally sets the tone, but that this could be influenced through state funding for collective hires across universities. An example provided was the Virginia Microelectronics Consortium in the late 1990s, where six chaired professorships in microelectronics were funded at six universities. This helped to create a network across the universities.

Delegate Davis asked how private sector currently partners with universities. One business participant indicated that his company has internship programs with local universities. Another participant indicated that his university has a "business gateway" that serves as the first point of contact for businesses interested in working with the university. Another private sector participant said that a college had reached out to her because of a specific skill set at her company. It was noted that we do not necessary market our intellectual assets as well as we could in the Commonwealth.

In planning for future meetings, a few topics of discussion were suggested:

- Looking at collaboration between universities
- Identifying the Commonwealth's niche in the cybersecurity market
- Reviewing other states that are successfully promoting cybersecurity collaboration
- Identifying existing models to leverage, such as Silicone Valley
- Targeting our existing strengths in the Commonwealth so as to take advantage of what we already have
- Discussing a strategic plan, and cost-benefit analysis of investment.

The meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on July 8 at 1:00 p.m. in the 3 East Conference Room of the General Assembly Building.